Railway Accidents

378. SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN:

SHRI NARENDRA SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state;

(a) whether -the Central Board of Railway Research considered ways "for averting and minimising rail accidents, including railway level crossing accidents at its 20th meeting held in the first week of June, 1984;

(b) whether installation of modern and sophisticated devices was also considered at the meeting for minimising accidents; and

(c) what ar_e the details of such equipments to b_e installed for the purpose, in the light of "the Board's deliberations?

- THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURY): (a) Th_e Central Board of Railway Research, which is the apex advisory body for Railway research and development, at its 20th meeting on &-6-R4 deliberated on the scope and direction of research including safety in train operation.

(b) and (c) The safety $item_s$ on which work is being done include warning device for level crossings, streamlining ultra-sonic rail flaw detection; micro pirocessor-based track monitoring car, train, parting indication device, indigenous hot box detector.

Improvement in the Irrigation Sector daring Sixth Plan

379. SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN:

SHRI NARENDRA SINGH;

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that invest, ment in the irrigation sector during the first four years of the Sixth Plan has fallen far short of the targets, if so, what are the year-wise targets and extent of short-fall;

(b) what are the main reasons for the short-fall; and

(c) what steps are being taken ^{lo} make good the shortfall during the last year of th_e Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : (a) A statement indicating year-wise approved outlays, expenditure and shortfalls, if any, in the Irrigation Sector during the first four years of Sixth Plan is enclosed. *[See* Appendix CXXXI, Annexure No. 7] It will be seen from th_e statement that while there ar_e shortfalls in the case of major and medium sector and instetutional outlays on minor Irrigation, taken as a whole for the four years, the public sector expenditure on Minor Irrigation has exceeded the approved outlays.

(b) Th_e main reason for the shortfall in major and medium sector is constraints of financial resources. The reasons for the shortfall in Institutional Sector include non-utilisaflon of funds committed by NABARD, high overdues position of Banks which restrict their lending eligibility and non-availability of subsidy to small and marginal farmers under the inteirrated rural development programme operated by the Ministry of Rural Development.

(c) Owing to continuing constraints on financial resources it may not be (possible to make good the shortfall during the last year of th_e Plan.

Population Growth in Madhya Pradesh

380. SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the growth of population per thousand in Madhya Pradesh during 1981-82, 1982-83 and